

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Park and Recreation Conference Room  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall  
Monday, November 09, 2009  
3:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Bryan Frye, Tom Roth, John Stevens, Andy Solter, Randy Brown, Cindy Claycomb

**Absent:** Matt Goolsby

**Also Present:** Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Karen Walker, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, Sharon Dickgraft, Assistant City Attorney, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk, Curt Van Boening, Wichita Audubon Society, Jerry Warren, citizen.

President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item 1: Approval of Minutes**

Solter questioned the meaning of “they” on page 4 for clarification. “Solter suggested they bring items to the Board, find consensus and direct staff to move forward to the City Council.”

Frye and Kupper said he was referring to state representatives and senators in their recollection.

Solter agreed and did not request a change to the minutes.

**Motion by Brown, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board Regular Meeting minutes of October 19, 2009.**

**Item 2: New Issues for Consideration**

None.

**Item 3A: Draft Ordinance 9.03**

Kupper reported that Board member suggestions to revise Draft Ordinance 9.03 have been completed and are ready for Board approval. Several items are specifically left in the ordinance to assist with park rule enforcement, such as trespassing and permit procedures.

Stevens said the revisions made it easier to read and understand for the citizens.

Claycomb asked about the omission of the 30 day jail penalty for convicted offenses. Section 54(b)

Walker confirmed that the jail option had been removed from the Draft Ordinance. Penalty violation may be up to \$500 fine. The jail option was very negative and any violation that was worthy of jail time would include other city ordinance violations.

Claycomb confirmed that Dickgrafe had sufficiently explained the combining of Rules and Regulations with City Ordinances.

Dickgrafe stated that Policy 125 did take authority away from the Park Board. The new structure leaves more authority with the Director with input from the Park Board. Writing rules and regulations into city ordinance makes them enforceable by the Police Department. One set of rules for parks will help citizens with proper conduct.

Stevens questioned Section 7(a), which park needs a permit. Do HOA need a permit to have a picnic in a park?

Kupper stated permits are issued so other users cannot override their event. Having the permit will make it enforceable by Police, if they are called. Permits are not required to use the park. Citizens can call into the Park Department to inquire if any other events have been scheduled or permits have been issued for park areas.

Stevens asked if this information could be accessed online.

Kupper stated the park department will work on getting this online. The position which is responsible for maintenance of the website is vacant and frozen.

Brown asked if there is a history of problems.

Kupper stated most conflict is resolved civilly. There has been conflict between a few athletic teams over practice sites which have required Police intervention.

Stevens asked if the permitting process and ordinances are posted on the website.

Kupper stated the permitting process is already online and the park department will review the site to make sure it is user friendly and the information is accurate. Permits and reservations can be accomplished by calling the Park Department or by visiting any recreation center.

Stevens asked if the fee scheduled could be referenced in the ordinances.

Dickgrafe offered that Section 16(a) could be amended to include, "A schedule of fees will be published by the director".

Stevens agreed.

Frye asked for any public comment. There was none.

**On a motion by Brown, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE Draft Ordinance 9.03 for DAB presentation with the addition of, "A schedule of fees will be published by the Director" to section 16(a).**

Walker stated staff will schedule presentation with all DAB's and inform Board members.

Roth asked that DAB 2 be scheduled in January.

#### **Item 4: Review of Pending Issues**

Frye brought up the Bylaw change to meeting times. Brown has a conflict with the early start time.

Brown stated he has a faculty meeting the second Monday of the month which prevents him from being at the Park Board meeting until 3:30 p.m.

Kupper stated that staff could accommodate the 3:30 p.m. start time.

Brown suggested the meetings be moved to the third Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

Dickgrafe said she knew of no other Board which met during that time to create a conflict.

Walker noted that the third Monday in January and February are holidays.

**On a motion by Frye, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE amending the Bylaws to read meetings on the third Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. beginning in January 2010.**

**On a motion by Frye, second by Solter, IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE moving the January 2010 and February 2010 meetings to the second Monday of the month at 3:30 p.m. Roth in Dissent.**

Kupper reminded the Board that Revised Bylaws will be presented to the City Council on December 1.

#### **Item 5: Updates from the Director and President**

Kupper stated that the Park Department will have a soft opening of the dog park at Chapin Park this winter as the grass has not fully germinated. A grand opening will be scheduled for early spring. At that time the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase may be ready for presentation, which will include additional roadway, picnic shelter, full restrooms and playground.

Solter inquired about a 4 wheel track.

Kupper stated it is still a possibility at the Furley land site.

Kupper reported the CIP may be going to workshop on November 24 for further input from City Council. The first or second meeting in December is anticipated for CIP approval.

Frye expressed appreciation for the Employee Newsletter published by Barbara McGuire, park staff. He encouraged Board members to attend the Night with Santa event at Century II on December 3. The Mayor's tree lighting will be at 6:00 p.m., with events following inside Century II, Exhibition Hall.

Kupper reported that donations are being sought to provide decorated Christmas trees for free drawings. 2008 estimated attendance was 5000 people for Night with Santa. Feed the Children donations will be collected at the event.

All Board members supported a donation of a decorated tree from the Board of Park Commissioners and provided personal funds.

#### **Item 6: Issues on the Horizon**

Stevens informed the Board of a potential problem with the homeless population in Grove Park if a plan for opening an additional Lord's Diner at 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Grove goes forward. There is considerable opposition from the neighborhood if plans to bus homeless people to the diner are implemented. There does not seem to be a plan to take them back out of the neighborhood once they are brought in.

Brown and Claycomb said they were unaware of a plan to bus homeless people to the proposed Lord's Diner and not bus them back out of the neighborhood. They understood the purpose was to serve people already in the neighborhood.

Kupper reported one incident in Grove Park that was addressed immediately by the Police Department. So far there is no widespread problem.

Stevens reported a citizen suggestion to clear additional areas in the park for visibility.

Kupper said the neighborhood would have to be consulted since the natural areas were intentionally retained for wildlife in Grove Park by neighborhood planning.

Stevens wanted the Board to be aware of the potential problem and an issue for the Board if the diner plans continue.

Brown reported a request from a citizen for a new park in the northeast part of the city.

Kupper said he had received the same request. There are plans to place additional parks in that area when funds are available.

Claycomb asked if dirt work is planned on the Emporia side of the downtown skate park.

Kupper said the concrete is sound and the footings for the bowls are not being impacted. Additional concrete work is planned along with additional lighting. Funding sources need to be finalized.

Solter asked for review of information on Bicycle Path Connector issues.

Frye inquired if the widening of 13<sup>th</sup> Street near MacDonald Golf Course had been approved.

Kupper stated that the plans have been approved and are planned for 2011. 13<sup>th</sup> Street will be widened to four divided lanes with widened sidewalks to access the rail corridor "Redbud" trail.

Claycomb brought up an issue concerning the downtown Coleman Building at St. Francis and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street which has groundwater pollution. She reported information that the County is inquiring to obtain the property for parking.

Kupper stated this would not be a bad option if the parking was green parking for arena events. There are grass species that work well for this use.

Solter suggested the Board involve in the process to promote green parking for the site.

Claycomb said she would further investigate the issue to bring more information to the Board.

Solter said he would make some contacts for more information.

**Item 7: Adjourn**

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:35 p.m.

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Bryan Frye, President

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Lee Ann Sack, Clerk